

Application No.: 10/609265
Amendment dated: December 16, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 (currently amended). A system for dividing gas flow, wherein a gas in a primary flow path is divided into a plurality of secondary flow paths, one of said secondary flow paths being fully opened and the flow rate of gas in each of said secondary flow paths being related to the flow rate of gas in each other one of said secondary flow paths by a predetermined ratio, the system comprising:

a plurality of mass flow controllers, there being one of said mass flow controllers arranged to control flow in each said secondary flow path; and
a common controller connected to all of said mass flow controllers; and

~~wherein one of said secondary flow paths is fully opened,~~
a sensor arranged to measure the flow rate of gas in said fully opened secondary flow path, said sensor being connected to said common controller, and providing to said common controller a feedback signal representing the flow rate of gas in said fully opened secondary flow path;

the ratio of the flow rate ~~of~~ in each other one of said secondary flow paths relative to the flow rate ~~of~~ in said fully opened secondary flow path ~~is being~~ is set at a value of 1 or less, and said common controller

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~~delivers~~ being responsive to said feedback signal and delivering, to the mass flow controller in each other one of said secondary flow paths, a set signal for controlling the flow therein, said set signal being dependent on said feedback signal and being obtained by multiplying the measured flow rate in said fully opened secondary flow path by the predetermined ratio for the flow rates in said fully opened secondary flow path and said other one of said secondary flow paths.

2(original). A system for dividing gas flow as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said mass flow controller is a pressure sensing type mass flow controller.

3(original). A system for dividing gas flow as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secondary flow paths are connected to inlets of a single processing chamber.